Telephone exchanges in Srinager (Garhwal)

† 966. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3240 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2000 and state:

(a) what is the latest position of those 10 exchanges which were decided to be set up in Gartroal (West Uttar Pradesh) during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of those out of the above which are functioning properly; and

(c) whether some of these exchanges have been linked with F.C. line; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) All the 10 exchanges mentioned in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3240 dated 25.4.2000 have since been installed and are functioning properly. However, the two exchanges at Yamkeshwar and Nainidanda have not yet been connected with transmission media. The transmission media is under installation and is likely to be commissioned during August, 2000.

(c) Yes, Sir. Shivpuri and Gumkhal telephone exchanges have been linked with OFC line.

Appointment of Secretary DTS

967. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the Indian Telecom Service (ITs) went on mass casual leave recently to protest the appointment of IAS officer as DTS Secretary; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that till recently the post

† Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was held by a non-IAS officer, if so, the circumstances necessitating appointment of an IAS officer as DTS Secretary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Criteria for Appointment of Telephone Advisory Committee Members

968. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are serving as members of the Telephone Advisory Committees at district/State level, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the number of such persons are increasing over the years;

(c) what benefits they get the criteria adopted to appoint such persons; and

(d) whether such Advisory Committees are achieving their objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is given in Annexure. [See *Appendix 190, Annexure No.I5]*

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Members of Telecom/Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) are entitled to a rent free temporary residential service telephone connection for the tenure of his/her nomination presently with 1150 free calls bi-monthly. Besides this, they are also entitled to traveling allowance and daily allowance to attend the TAC meeting as applicable to them under the relevant rules. Categories of persons eligible for consideration or nomination in the TAC are given in the Annexure. *[See Appendix* 190, *Annexure No. 16]*

(d) Yes, Sir.